ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CENTRAL

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

WAY-SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOSA CO., ALA.,

September 29th and 30th, and October 1st, 1886.

OFFICERS:

ELD. L. H. HASTIE, MODERATOR..... Marble Valley, Ala.
ELD. D. S. MARTIN, CLERK..... Equality, Ala.
T. J. PENNINGTON, TREASURER.....Rockford, Ala.

☞ The next session of the Central Association will be held with Union Springs Church, near Marble Valley, Coosa county, beginning on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in October, 1887. Introductory Sermon by Elder Catt. Smith; alternate, J. W. Fulmer. Elder D. S. Martin to write Circular Letter.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.
1886.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. Hear Letters from the Churches.
2. Call for petitions from Churches desiring membership
3. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
5. Appoint Committees to report during session, viz:
   - On religious exercises.
   - On finance and auditing.
   - On documents and requests.
   - On nominations.
   - On correspondence.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Have Rules of Decorum read.
8. Call roll and erase absentees.
9. Hear Treasurer's report and refer.
10. Return correspondence.
11. Hear miscellaneous business.
12. Hear reports from committees.
13. Give instructions about appropriations.
14. Make arrangements for printing Minutes.
15. Hear circular letters.
16. Correct Minutes and adjourn.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS

ORDAINED.

J. H. Colley	Equality, Ala.	O. C. Swindall	Good Hope, Ala.
L. H. Hastie	Marble Valley, "	J. M. Johnson	" " "
D. S. Martin	Equality, "	G. M. Lowry	Stewartville, "
T. A. Kelley	Rockford, "	W. T. Steveman	Rockford, "
W. J. D. Upshaw	Electic, "	J. H. Taylor	Irma, "
B. H. Vickers	" "	J. H. Thompson	Good Hope, "
A. G. Rains	Proctor, "	J. D. Hughes	Rockford, "
J. W. Fulmer	Mt. Olive, "	Cat Smith,	Goodwater, "

LICENTIATES.

J. C. Fulmer	Mt. Olive, Ala.	B. W. Calloway	"
J. L. Jones	Rockford, "		

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

The Forty-second Annual Session of the Central Baptist Association convened with the Wayside Baptist Church, Coosa County, Ala., Wednesday, September 29, 1886, at 11 o'clock a. m.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. T. Stewman, of Coosa County, from the text, "And be Not Faithless, but Believing." John, XX chapter 27th verse.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 29, 1886—1:30 O'CLOCK.

The Association was called to order at 1:30 o'clock p. m. After singing the hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord," prayer was offered by the Moderator, Elder L. H. Hastie.

The body was then declared to be temporarily organized.

The letters were then laid on the table and Brethren Elders J. F. Bledsoe and F. H. Moss were asked to read the same before the body.

The following were enrolled as delegates from the churches:

LIST OF DELEGATES.

Alexander City—Letter reached the Clerk after the adjournment of the session.
Antioch—E. J. Wammack.
Bethesda—D. S. Martin, E. Cason.
Beulah—W. J. Moody, J. M. Bachelor.
Bethlehem—V. W. Mullins.
County Line—C. M. Moore, B. T. Howle.
Concord—R. S. Penton, W. A. Austin, G. W. Willbanks.
Eclectic—W. J. D. Upshaw, S. D. Hickman.

Goodwater—T. P. Cranford, W. J. Connor, T. G. Shaw.
Good Hope—Represented by letter.
Hatchet Creek—M. Murphy.
Harmony—J. H. Colby, D. F. Avant, M. Shirley.
Liberty—J, A. Robinson.
Lebanon—T. P. Moon, G. P. Kelley, M. B. Arant, sr.
Mt. Olive—W. C. Brown, R. Corley, W. I. Newman.
Mt. Moriah—E. N. Little.
Mt. Pleasant—John G. Stewart, W. L. Bryant.
Mt. Zion—F. M. Tanton.
Mascedonia—W. B. J. Stone.
New Hope—H. B. Young.
Olive Branch—J. D. Hand, A. J. Deloach, W. Cowart.
Poplar Springs—James A. Logan, G. B. Garnett.
Providence—J. A. Harden, J. D. Hull, A. G. Clark.
Refuge—J. H. Taylor.
Rockford—T. J. Pennington, W. T. Stewman, J. W. Ledbetter.
Shiloah—E. J. Bryant, O. P. Bently.
Santuck—Represented by letter.
Salem—J. D. Hughes, E. G. Brown, W. R. Miller.
Shady Grove—T. A. Kelley, F. M. Allen, J. J. Grant.
Union—J. M. Duffee.
Union Springs—L. H. Hastie, J. W. Cooper, W. H. Wood.
Wayside—R. M. Murchinson, James Norel, G. W. Walker.

The following preachers were present members of the Association: J. H. Colley, L. H. Hastie, D. S. Martin, T. A. Kelley, W. J. D. Upshaw, W. T. Stewman, J. H. Taylor, J. D. Hughes.

The regular order of business was suspended and the officers re-elected by acclamation as follows:

Elder L. H. Hastie, of Union Springs Church, Moderator.

Elder D. S. Martin, of Bethesda Church, Clerk.

T. J. Pennington, of Rockford Church, Treasurer.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats.

Correspondents and visiting Brethren:

The Moderator called for oorrespondents from other Associations, and for visitors, cordially inviting them to take seats in the body.

The following were enrolled:

East Liberty Association—Elders George E. Brewer, J. F. Bledsoe, F. H. Moss.

Weogufka Association—Elias Kelley.

Coosa River Association—Dr. J. J. D. Renfroe.

Tallapoosa River Association—Joseph Norton.

W. B. Crumpton Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer

of the Alabama State Mission Board, and Dr. Renfroe, Editor of the *Alabama Baptist*, were recognized in their official relation to the denomination.

Our esteemed venerable Brother James M. Russell, from Texas, was cordially received as a visitor.

Dr. Renfroe came forward and made a few remarks in the interest of the *Alabama Baptist.* Brother Russell followed in a few earnest remarks.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made the following report:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

To preach to-night at the church, Brother W. B. Crumpton, followed by Brother William Upshaw; and to-morrow at 11 o'clock at the stand, Dr. Renfroe, followed by Brother Cat Smith.

The following Committees were appointed to report at this Session:

On Religious Exercises—J. J. Grant, S. D. Hickman and the delegates of Wayside Church.

On Finance—T. P. Cranford, R. Corley, J. W. Cooper.

On Documents and Requests—R. S. Penton, T. P. Moon, E. G. Brown.

On Nominations—J. S. Bently, W. I. Newman, W. J. Connor.

The body adjourned to Thursday morning at 9 o'clock a. m.

SECOND DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

THURSDAY MORNING, Sept. 30—8:30 A. M.

A half hour was pleasantly and profitably spent in a service of prayer and song, conducted by Elder Joseph Norton.

The body was then called to order. Prayer by Brother James L. Jones.

Motion to postpone correcting the list of delegates until the afternoon session.

Rules of Decorum read.

Treasurer's report was read and adopted and referred to the Committee on Finance, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Report of T. J. Pennington, Treasurer of the Central Association for the year 1886:

DR.

To balance on hand of previous years	$111 32	
To Minute Funds	41 70	
To Foreign Missions	32 75	
To State Missions	196 05	
To Mexican Missions	1 50	
To Ministerial Education	5 50	
To Home Missions	8 50	
To Finance Committee	3 35	
Total amount received		$400 67

CR.

By amount paid Bro. D. S. Martin, Clerk	$41 70	
By amount paid L. H. Hastie, as Missionary	252 77	
Total amount disbursed		$294 47
Balance in hands of Treasurer		$106 20

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. PENNINGTON, Treasurer.

Returned correspondents as follows to other associations:

East Liberty—William Upshaw, M. Shirley, R. Corley, W. C. Brown, C. M. Moore, J. S. Bently, T. J. Pennington, Catt Smith, H. B. Young, D. S. Martin, F. M. Tanton, J. H. Colley, F. R. Sims, J. H. Norrell, W. B. Stone, J. W. Walker, W. J. Connor.

Tallapoosa River—J. H. Colley, D. S. Martin, C. M. Moore, W. J. Moody, J. W. Ledbetter, T. H. Taylor, B. T. Howle, C. J. Bently, A. J. Garrett, T. P. Moon, John G. Stephens, J. H. Norrell.

Weoguftka—M. Murphy, G. W. Walker.

Coosa River—W. C. Brown.

Unity—James L. Jones.

Montgomery—J. H. Norrell, G. W. Walker, D. S. Martin.

Baptist State Convention—Catt Smith, J. L. Jones, D. S. Martin, William Upshaw, G. M. Lowry, T. A. Kelly.

Report on State Missions read as follows:

Report on Home Missions read as follows:

Report of Central Committee read as follows:

Pending the adoption of the above reports, Brother W. B. Crampton came forward in a thrilling speech.

Pending the discussion, the Association adjourned to 1:30 o'clock, afternoon.

By appointment, Dr. Renfroe conducted the services at 11 o'clock. He preached to a large and attentive congregation from the text: "Ye also, as Lively Stones, are built up a Spiritual House, a Holy Priesthood, to offer up Spiritual Sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." 1st Peter, II chapter, 5 verse.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 O'clock P. M.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

Business resumed.

The report of the Central Committee again taken up and discussed and adopted.

REPORT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The Central Committee reports that nothing has been done in the way of Missionary and Colportage work in our bounds during the past year. At our last Association we had a conference with Brother T. M. Bailey, the Corresponding Secretary, which we hoped would result in some good. But he resigned and left the State and the unprecedented providential occurrences in the way of floods and other things threw a damper over the people in a way so as to hinder enterprises of any sort. After conferring with many brethren, we now think we can best meet the demands of Colportage and Missionary service by co-operating with the East Liberty Association in such service as the Tuskeegee Association has done; and that this Association do now propose to Brother Bledsoe, who is present, that he give us the benefit of half his services for the ensuing year, and upon the same terms that he is engaged by the East Liberty Association; that is, that he use our Colportage Fund, and this Association pay him as much for his services as the East Liberty does, as in proportion to the time he serves in our bounds. We make this suggestion after first ascertaining that the way is open for the arrangement we suggest.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Bently,
T. J. Pennington,
Henry Norrell.

A call for correspondents was again made and Brother G. W. Jeter, from the Morning Star Association (colored) was received and correspondents returned to the said Association as follows: F. R. Simms, W. E. Brown, J. J. Grant,

W. T. Stewman, G. W. Willbanks, G. W. Gillland, E. J. Wammack.

The reports on Missions taken up and discussed by Elders G. E Brewer, James M. Russell and others.

The delegates from the churches were asked to name the amount that each church would try to send up during the next Associational year to aid the various objects fostered by the denomination.

The following churches responded:

Churches.	Amount.
Bethesda	$10 00
Shiloah	10 00
Lebanon, (cash)	10 00
Harmony	5 00
Olive Branch, (cash)	55
Beulah	5 00
Refuge	5 00
Eclectic	25 00
Union Spring	5 00
Hatchet Creek	5 00
New Hope	5 00
Concord	20 00
Wayside	10 00
Goodwater	30 00
Shady Grove	5 00
Good Hope	5 00
Macedonia	5 00
Mt. Pleasant	5 00
Salem	10 00
Antioch	10 00
Poplar Spring	5 00
County Line	5 00
Rockford	25 00
Union	20 00
Mt. Olive	10 00
Providence	5 00

The Committee on Preaching made the following report:

To preach to-morrow morning at 9:30 o'clock at the house, Brother J. D. Hughes, followed by Brother J. L.

Jones; at the stand at 11 o'clock a. m. Brother James M. Russell, followed by Brother James Norton.

The body adjourned until 9 o'clock a. m. Friday morning.

THIRD DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, Oct. 1, 1886—9 O'CLOCK A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by J. H. Taylor.

Business resumed by taking up reports on Missions.

Brother George E. Brewer presented the claim of Foreign Mission in an able speech of fifteen minutes, and the following pastors present promised to bring the matter before their churches and take their first quarterly collection expressly for Foreign Missions, viz.: J. H. Colley, George E. Brewer, T. A. Kelley, William Upshaw, D. S. Martin, L. H. Hastie, G. M. Lowry, J. D. Hughes, J. H. Taylor.

Report on State Missions adopted as follows:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee, wish to suggest that there has been a great fall off in State contributions for the present year, judging from the number of laborers employed and the amount of work done. From the report of last year it appears that eighty-one Missionaries were employed in the field, but this year only sixty-five are engaged for all or part of their time. These facts and others, with reference to our State work, present quite a fearful aspect to those of us who feel the burden of it resting on our hearts. We therefore recommend that all lovers of our common cause rise up to their full duty in this respect and raise the amounts suggested by our Secretary, knowing that we must do our State work if done at all, for we are able to do it and we verily know that we ought to have the denominational pride to do it. Therefore, we suggest that our contributions be so enlarged that all embarrassment be removed from the mind of our Secretary and our great work will be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. D. UPSHAW.

Report on Home Missions adopted as follows:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Home Missions feel encouraged when they view in the light of history the wondrous works which God has done through the instrumentality of Domestic or Home Missions. He set on foot this wonderful work when He sent out His disciples to preach salvation for sinners

through the grace of God and by our Savior, and said "He that believeth on Me, greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto My father."

And eventually the glad tidings of salvation for sinners reached our own beloved land through Home Missions, intrusted in the hearts and hands of a little band of Welchmen, who were baptized upon profession of faith before coming over to this continent, and who, after fasting and prayer, settled themselves as a church, and as a little band of missionaries, held their church meetings from place to place and at distant points for the convenience of its members—(in a similar manner, we suppose, to that in which we hold our Associations in the rural districts)—at which meetings they preached and held their communion at the Lord's table, ordained ministers and did all they could for the diffusion of God's word among the people; and through hardships and deprivations incident to first settlements, persecutions, such as bad names, imprisonments, and the forcible sale of their claims and improvements upon lands to pay the parish preachers of their enemies, they continued to increase in numbers, and on they moved, trusting in God, engaging often in fasting and prayer, organizing grammar classes and schools for the benefit of their ministers, collecting money to pay for the printing of Bibles and commentaries, appointing preachers to serve at different points and raising money for their support, until ultimately they reached our own and other States, the fruits of which labors we to-day enjoy. The little light which appeared near two hundred years ago upon the banks of the Penepek in Pennsylvania, now sheds its rays in every State in our union; and, over-leaping our bounds, has croped Burmah, Mexico, Brazil, Africa, China, Italy and other places —all the results of God's blessings upon the labors of a little band of devoted God-loving Home Missionaries.

Home Missions is the underlying strata of all missions. With a healthy and zealous missionary spirit at home we may expect good results from all missions.

The view of the rise and progress of our cause on this continent with the evident endorsement of God, encourages us to go on in such service; and the way for such work having been opened so wide that is found necessary to center the collective effort in a board of brethren to be managed and looked after by them. It is our duty to do all we reasonably can to sustain their efforts, trusting in God to bring out the results in the future as he has in the past.

We have no means for a definite statement of the result of Home Missions within the past year, but we have ascertained enough to know that God's blessings are still with the efforts in the destitutions of Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Carolinas and among the Indians. Some of the Indian tribes show considerrble signs of civilization and there are many efficient Christians among them as results of our Home Mission service, and this thought brings us to other considerations than those just mentioned in favor of our mission which ought to come home to us with pleasant impressions, which touches us not only as Christians but as Christian patriots, who love our country. That it is, in our estimation, the fairest land on earth, and that it is so, by the blessings attending the efforts of our Christian fathers. So to look at the subject of Home Missions from any standpoint, they demand our time and means. And we recommend that our Association sustain the efforts of our boards as far as possible.

JOHN S. BENLLY,
T. A. KELLEY,
W. T. STEWMAN.

Report on Sunday Schools read, and after consiserable

discussion by Brethren H. B. Young, G. E. Brewer, L. H. Hastie and others, was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee to whom was assigned the duty of reporting on the subject of Sunday Schools, beg leave to submit the following. We are led to the confidence that the outlook for Sunday School work is more favorable than former reports have shown, from the facts that more churches have Sunday Schools; that they are open more months in a year and better attended; and, above all, we find but few fogies to be opposed to Sabbath Schools. Notwithstanding these favorable things we regret to say to you that there seems still to be a dead point in this part of our church work. We find some churches who think it indispensable to teach the "three R's," or a part of them, in their Sunday Shcools. Now, we know that the march of the modern Sunday School has swept through about a hundred years only, yet its origin in some ancient form is divine and we believe its only design is to give instruction in the holy scripture, and there have only one authorized teacher, viz.—the Church of Christ. Therefore, these good brethren who go into the church on the Sabbath and instruct their children in Webster's speller and McGuffey's reader, while we believe they are conscientious, are going contrary to the teaching of God's word and are desecrating the Lord's day.

Now, we recommend that our pastors, superintendents and all Sunday School workers put forth all their energy and tact to avert these evils. We also recommend that your missionary and colporteur, if you employ one, spare no time or patience in having only the pure word of God taught by the church, aided by the excellent keys, viz.—the literature published by the American Baptist Publication Society and also the *Kind Words* published at Atlanta, Georgia, which we heartily recommend.

For the above causes and similar ones, we further recommend that the Association organize all her Sunday School forces into a body or convention to be known as the Baptist Sunday School Convention of the Central Association.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES L. JONES,
G. M. LOWERY,
L. H. HASTIE.

Report on Temperance read, and after speeches by James M. Russell, George Harrington and others, was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee beg leave to submit the following suggestions:

We suppose that when Paul reasoned about temperance he included the opposite to every feature of intemperance; but, in this report, we only call attention to the subject as it presents itself in connection with the whiskey traffic.

We suggest first—That this is purely a moral question, and is, therefore, competent to be considered by religious bodies, or to be handled by the pulpit, considered by the Sabbath School or any moral institution.

We suggest second—That the religious and moral forces in the land are sufficient to control this matter. Organization is the great need of the hour.

Respectfully submitted,

CATT SMITH, Ch'n.

Body adjourned to 2 p. m.

At 11 o'clock a. m. Brother James M. Russell will preach, followed by Brother Joseph Norton. At the close of the sermons a collection was taken for the benefit of Brother J. M. Russell, amounting to $29.55.

THIRD DAY.—AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The body met and resumed business.

The report on the state of Religion was read and adopted.

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee on the state of religion beg leave to say that the state of religion at this time is equal to, if not better than it was at our last session. Yet, while most of our churches have experienced revivals of religion, our financial condition is not so good as last reported; yet our prayer is that God may put it in the hearts of our brethren to work and labor for the extension of the cause of the blessed Redeemer to the utmost of our ability till His kingdom come and reign in all hearts, especially His Zion.

Submitted in love,

J. H. COLLEY,
C. M. MOORE,
Committee.

Report on Religious Literature adopted as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your Committee submit the following report:

We most heartily recommend to this Association the *Alabama Baptist* as worthy of your patronage. We commend it above every other paper. We heartily admit the worth of other Baptist papers, but none of them can be to us what our own is. We congratulate the Baptists of the State that the paper is to be conducted under the care of Dr. J. J. D. Renfroe.

We also recommend *Kind Words*, Atlanta, Georgia, and the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society as the best Sunday School literature.

W. P. WARD, Ch'n.

Finance Committee reports as follows?

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your Committee on Finance beg leave to make the following report:

We have examined the report of the Treasurer and find the same correct. We have received contributions for this session:

Vouchers	$80 70
Cash	200 80
Total amount received	$281 50

Directed as follows:—

Home Missions	$47	15
Foreign Missions	38	85
State Missions	96	70
Howard College, educational purposes	38	15
For Minutes	41	20
For J. D. Hughes	1	25
Finance Committee to balance	7	65
Bro. T. P. Moon, of Lebanon Church, for next year for Foreign Missions	10	00
A. J. Deloach for Foreign Missions		55
Total amount as directed		$281 50

[P. S.—Special collection for Elder J. M. Russell, from Texas, $29.55.]

Respectfully submitted,

T. P. Cranford,
R. Corley,
J. W. Cooper,
Committee.

The following resolutions prevailed:

Resolved, That the Clerk be paid $15 out of the Minute Fund for his services and the remainder be used for printing and distributing the Minutes.

Resolved, That this Association tender their heartfelt thanks to this church and community for their generous hospitality during the session.

Committee on Nominations reports as follows:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

To preach the Introductory Sermon—Elder Catt Smith; alternate, J. W. Fulmur.

To write Circular Letter—D. S. Martin.

Central Committee—T. J. Pennington, J. C. Maxwell, T. P. Cranford.

A motion prevailed that Brother J. S. Bently be added to said Central Committee as Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. Bently,
W. I. Newman,
W. J. Connor.

A few moments were granted Brother Ed. Gandy to take a collection for the purpose of building a house of worship at Mt. Moriah. $17.35 was contributed.

The following Committees were appointed to report at next session:

State Missions—William Upshaw, J. W. Cooper, J. D. Hull.

Home Missions—Catt Smith, J. D. Hughes, J. H. Taylor.

Foreign Missions—J. S. Bently, T. A. Kelley, J. L. Jones.

Sabbath School—R. B. Pruitt, R. Corley, W. I. Newman,

Temperance—T. J. Pennington, F. M. Allen, J. H. Norrell.

The state of Religion—R. S. Penton, B. T. Howle, E. J. Bryant.

Religious Literature—W. C. Brown, J. W. Ledbetter, D. F. Avant.

The Minutes read and corrected, and the body adjourned to meet with the Union Springs Church, on Wednesday before the first Sunday in October, 1887.

An appropriate hymn was sung and the parting hand was taken, after which, prayer was offered by Brother James M. Russell.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

Wayside—Brother John McCord, Sister Melissa Hillier.
Union Springs—Jane White.
Poplar Springs—Annie Webb.
Olive Branch—E. M. DeVaughn.
Harmony—Amanda White.
Liberty—P. Y. Thomas.
Bethlehem—J. W. West, Emma Bilingslee.
Eclectic—Sarah Nichols, consort of Rev. Jonathan Nichols, deceased.
Concord—Emily P. Gary.
Good Hope—Mary McElhany.
Shiloah—Elizabeth Wilkinson, Rachael Martin.
Macedonia—Etta Harvill.
County Line—Ann Hopson, Bettie Mote.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTERS—RECOMMENDED FOR USE BY THE CHURCHES.

The Baptist Church of Christ at——, to the Central Baptist Association:

DEAR BRETHREN: We have appointed as delegates to your body,——————, and as alternates—— —— ——

STATISTICS.

Baptised, ———; Received by letter,———; by voucher, ——; Restored, ——; Dismissed by letter, ——; Died, ———; Excluded, ——; Number of members, ——— ; Increase, ——; Decrease, ———.

Number of officers and teachers, ——; number of scholars enrolled, ——; average attendance of all, ———; number of teachers baptised during the year, ———; number of scholars baptized during year, ———; number of months open, ——; number of volumes in Library, ———; number of Sunday School papers taken, ———; Contributions for school expenses, ———; Contributions for benevolent objects, ———.

Have you a prayer meeting, and how often does it meet?

We send contributions as follows: For Minutes $—; Home Missions cash, $———; State Missions, cash $——; Foreign Missions, cash ———; Ministerial Education cash. $——; Aggregate, $——; Total,——.

Of which $——— is to redeem previous pledges for ——, Pastor, ———; Clerk, ———; Clerk's post office, ——; County ——.

Sabbath meeting, ——.

[Here make brief mention of revival. Ordination, Licenture, Death of Members. or other matter of importance.]

By order of conference,——

——— ———, Moderator.

—— ——, Clerk.

Date.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

RELATIVE DUTIES OF PASTORS AND CHURCHES.

DEAR BRETHREN :—

The duty of writing the Circular Letter having fallen upon me, I feel impressed to say something relating to the subject above suggested. This feeling grows out of the fact that there seems to be a want of appreciation and understanding of each other.

The relationship existing between pastor and church is the most sacred perhaps known to us. This being the case, it is well enough that we realize our responsibilities to each other.

Notice, first—"To appear as an embassador of Christ, and to stand in His stead in the great congregation; to be employed in the hands of His spirit in training up the children of God for usefulness here, and immortality beyond, is a position that angels can not fill."

When pastor and church have agreed to live with each other the first great duty of the pastor is to take the over-sight of the flock as an under shepherd. This implies that he then is an overseer; that is, he must supervise the work, assign to everyone his work and then instruct them from God's word how to perform it; get down off his stilts; get right hold of his people; he should lift up the cast-down; bind up the heart-broken; encourage the faint-hearted; strengthen the weak; in fact, get upon a high plain of christianity and bring his people up with him. Again the pastor should feed his flock—feed them well—from God's bounty; deduce from his precious truth that which will produce growth and power in every member of his flock. He should indoctrinate them. He should not be satisfied until every one is equipped in the peculiar doctrine of our denomination. Neither can he shun to declare any part of God's divine truth to them, whether it be to warn them of danger, exhort them to duty, or reprove them of sin. He should devote his life and all to the well being of his flock; also, he should visit them as often as possible, labor among them from house to house. Again, it is his duty to thoroughly organize them so that every one may feel identified in the work of God; that he may present every man perfect before God; that in all things God may have glory in the churches. It is needless to say that the under shepherd love his flock, for whom Christ died; for the true shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep. He should, with tender care, watch the lambs of the fold, see that they are not beguiled by the wicked and led into sin and bring reproach upon the name of Christ. While the duties and responsibilities of pastors to their churches are of great magnitude, yet with equal weight rests the responsibilities upon the churches with reference to those whom God has called to the glorious work of the gospel of Christ. In the first

place, the inspired apostle taught, "you should know those who labor among you." This signifies that they be recognized as God's servants; should have the respect of all his flock as well as their highest esteem, since he is the man of their choice, not an intruder sent to them by synod or bishop, but a man clothed with authority from God, whom the church has chosen to supervise her glorious work. Again, he should be esteemed highly by those for whom he labors because he is in Christ's stead, praying men to be reconciled to God. He stands between the living and the dead, laboring not for time but for eternity.

This being the case, he has a right to be heard on all questions of a Biblical nature; ought to be accepted as the teacher of the church. He has a right to expect his entire church to meet him on all occasions of worship appointed by them unless they are providentiatly hindered. It is the duty of the church to co-operate cheerfully with their pastor in everything that promotes the cause of Jesus Christ, for it is written, "we are workers together with God." This co-operation should extend to all that he may suggest in keeping with divine truth, whether it be to contribute to the work of missions in our own land or in foreign fields or any other work under God. He should have the prayers of the church. Oh! that they could always feel when they go out on the battlefield for God that they are supported by the church in prayer, as was Moses by Aaron and Hur of old. Again, he needs words of encouragement when thus engaged for Christ. A God speed you, a God bless you, would cheer many a drooping spirit, bind many a broken heart. He should be met warmly on all occasions because his heart beats warmly for you and your children; again, because he has the burden of the cause of Christ at heart. It is the indispensible duty of the churches to guard with the utmost care the good name and character of God's embassadors, for they are more precious than gold.

Deign not to stoop to so low an act as to give publicity to false reports concerning your pastor by repeating them, for again it is written, "Receive not an accusation against an elder except by the mouth of two or three witnesses." Again, "Touch not mine anointed nor do my servants no harm."

Last, but not least, it is the duty of the churches to amply support him from whom they have received services. God has enjoined it in his word. Hear the words of inspiration: "Carry neither purse nor script for the workman is worthy of his hire." Luke 10, 6:8; Matthew 10, 10. Again, Paul to Corinthians, saying: "Muzzle not the ox that treadeth out the corn." Again, "God hath ordained that they that preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." Thus we clearly see that the support of the pastor is not of the school room; it is not of the farm; it is not of the mercantile, or any secular business, but of the gospel. It is the duty of the churches in calling their pastor, to inform him how much they can pay him for his services; inform him as to the ability of the church, in order that he may know whether the church is doing its duty; in order also, that he may not indulge them in their sloth. God speed the day when pastors and churches will have understood their relative duties to each other.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. D. Upshaw, Ch'n.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1, The Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the body, and shall hold their offices until another election.

2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in the deliberations of the association, and keep order, by enforcing the rules of this Decorum, and he shall not be allowed to vote, except in cases of a tie, and then shall give the casting vote.

3. It shall be the duty of the Association, first, to provide for the general union of the churches, and to devise ways and means for the spread of the Gospel, and the promotion of our Redeemer's kingdom upon earth; second, to maintain correspondence with sister associations, and thus preserve a chain of communication among the churches; third, to give advice to the churches in cases of difficulty; fourth, to invite visiting ministers of our faith and order to seats with us, to aid in our deliberations.

4. At each annual session there shall be appointed, by the Association, an executive committee, consisting of ——, to whom shall be referred all matters touching the spread of the Gospel in our bounds, and report thereon at the next session of the Association.

5. There shall be appointed, as in the last preceding article. a committee of finance, to whom all funds sent up by the churches to the Association shall be paid; whose duty it shall be to report thereon during the session.

6. No motion shall be entertained by the Association until it shall be seconded; it shall then be taken up, opened for debate, and finally decided, unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. Every query sent up to this Association by any in the Union shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated; and if there be a majority in favor, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, Provided always, that those be first considered which may affect the union of the churches.

8. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator; he shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject.

9. No member shall speak more than three times upon the same subject unless by leave of the Association.

10. There shall be no talking, whispering, or moving about during the time of any public discussion, nor any reflection cast upon the speaker.

11. Any delegate wishing to leave the Association before its adjournment, shall be required to make the cause known, and obtain leave of absence by vote of the body; and if any delegate shall absent himself without leave, he shall be considered guilty of disorder, and shall be erased from the list of delegates.

12. A member violating any of these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator.

13. This Decorum shall be read at each annual session of the Association, immediately after its organization.

14. This Decorum may, at any regular session, be altered or amended a majority of the body concurring therein.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of members regularly chosen by the churches in our Union; but in making appointments or assigning duties, it shall be constitutional for the Association to appoint to

any such duties any member, though such member be not a delegate to this body.

ART. 2. The member so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation. But by a two-third vote of the Body a member of any Church, without being Regularly chosen, may, upon good Reasons, be admitted to represent such Church when no one Regularly Chosen be present.

ART. 3. The members so chosen and convened shall be called the "CENTRAL ASSOCIATION."

ART. 4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches; but may withdraw from any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures, and who shall fail to represent at an Association, and shall refuse to account for such failure at the next regular session.

ART. 5. Any church desiring admission into this Union shall petition by letter and messengers, and if found othodox, shall be received by the Association by the Moderator giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 6. Any church having a public gift, before proceeding to license the same, should call the gifts of two or more sister churches, or experienced members, to unite with the church in conference to examine into the nature of the gift, and upon due approval, license to be granted, and reported to the next Association.

ART. 7. Every church in our Union, whose membership shall be one hundred or under, shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every thirty-three over one hundred, they shall be entitled to one additional delegate.

ART. 8. No query shall be taken into consideration in this Association, except in cases of serious difficulty which cannot be settled by the church, nor messengers from other churches.

ART. 9. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution it shall deem expedient.

ART, 10. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches, by their messengers, and paid over to the Committee on Finance (the committee shall be annually appointed), whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make at every session a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

ART. 11. The officers of this Association are to be a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, to be elected from her own body.

ART. 12. Difference of opinion as to benevolent institutions of the day shall never be made a question of fellowship in this Association.

ART. 13. Amendments or alterations to this Constitution may be made at any regular session—two-thirds of the members present concurring therein.

ARTICLES OF FAITH, PROOF TEXTS.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—three in one. 1st. John v. 7. Matt. III, 15-17. John xiv, 16. Matt. XXVIII, 19.

ART. II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd, Timothy III, 16-17. 2nd Peter I, 19-20-21.

ART. III. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. That Adam disobeyed God, and that all mankind have inherited a sinful nature from Adam. Gen. III. 1-7. Psalms LI, 5. Rom. V, 12. Eph. II, 1.

ART. IV. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by himself alone. Zach. IV, 6. John VI, 44. 1st. Cor. XI, 14. Rom. VIII, 7-8.

ART. V. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth. Rom. XI, 4-7. 2nd Thess. II, 13. 1st Peter I, 2.

ART. VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. Acts XIII, 39. Rom. IV, 11-12-23-24-25., Gala. II, 16.

ART. VII. We believe in the preservation of saints. Psalms XXXVII, 23-24-28. Micah. VII, 8. John V, 24 and X, 28. Rom. VIII, 35-39. 1st. Peter, I 3-5.

ART. VIII. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, of perpetual obligation, and that none but true believers are fit subjects of the ordinances. Jonn I, 33. Matt. III 13-17. Matt. XXVIII, 19-20. Acts I, 22, and II, 41. Matt. XXVI, 6-30 1st Cor. XI, 23-26.

ART. IX. We believe in oneLord, one faith, and one baptism, and immersion only is baptism. Eph. IV, 5. Rom. VI, 4-6. Col. II, 12. Acts VIII, 38:39. Mark I, 9.

ART. X. We believe that no one is qualified to preach, administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except he be called of God, as was Aaron, is set apart by, and is in good standing with the church of which he is a member, and come under the hands of the Presbytery. Mark III, 14 Acts XIV, 23. 1st Tim II, 7, and V, 22. Heb. V, 4 John IV, 2. Acts VIII, 28.

ART. XI. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment. John V, 28-29. Rev. XX, 12–13. Acts XXIV, 15.

ART. XII. We believe in the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. Matt. XXV, 46. Rev. VII, 15-16. Col. 3 4. 1st Thess. V, 17. 2nd Thess. I. 7-9. Rev. XX, 10–14-15. Matt. XXV, 41-43.

STATISTICS OF CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, ALABAMA, 1886.

Church.	County.	Pastor.	Clerk.	Clerk's P. O.	Membership last reported.	Increase by				Decrease by				Present Membership.	Sunday School			Preaching Sabbath.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Voucher.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Volumes in Library.			
Alexander City		R. A. J. Cumbie	T. S. Christian	Alexander City	220	8	7	1	1	8			1	229						
Antioch		T. A. Kelley	E. J. Wammack	Wecka	70	11	3		6	9	9			67				3	sab2	
Bethesda		D. S. Martin	W. H. Bird	Equality	58	15	4	2		1				79				1	1-3	
Beulah		J. M. Johnson	Wm. Bachelor	Wetumpka	23	12	6			3	2			35	4	35		1		
Bethlehem		J. H. Colley	V. W. Mullins	Tallassee	70	10	5				2		2	79				4		
County Line		D. S. Martin	B. T. Howle	Irma	57	8	3		1	12			2	54				2		
Concord		T. A. Kelley	R. S. Penton	Pentonville	54	8	2		1	3			1	60				4	2	
Eclectic		Wm. Upshaw	O. H. Collier	Eclectic	93	4	3			9	1		1	82	6	32		4	4	
Goodwater		Catt Smith	T. P. Cranford	Goodweter	100	15	3			2	1			115	7	75		2	4	
Good Hope		J. M. Johnson	J. F. Timmerman	Good Hope	45	1	3	1	2	2	6		1	44				2		
Hatchet Creek		A. G. Rains	R. C. Hardy	Dollar	35	7	2		2	4	1			43				1		
Harmony		D. S. Martin	T. J. Colley	Equality	70	2	1			1	2		1	67				3		
Liberty		L. H. Hastie	W. M. Russell	Bulger's Mills	43	18	2		5	1			1	67	6	28		3		
Lebanon		A. G. Rains	A. T. Stanley	Buycks	16	22	8		1					48				2		
Mt. Olive		W. Wilks	W. C. Brown	Mt. Olive	107	5	5		1	4				114				1		
Mt. Moriah		J. D. Hughes	G. A. Harmon	Tarapin Hill	30	19	1		1		1		1	52						
Mt. Zion		J. H. Colley	J. S. Jones	Bulger's Mills	40	3	2			3	6			36				1		
Mt. Pleasant		J. R. Conger	J. G. Stewart	Goodwater	22	4	1			1				26	5	40		4		
Macedonia		L. H. Hastie	C. J. Conaway	Stewartville	88	1	8			10	2		1	80	9	57		2	1	
New Hope		J. H. Colley	H. B. Young	Bulger's Mills	42	7	2		5	9	1		1	58				2		
Olive Branch		J. D. Hughes	J. D. Hand	Pentonville	44	5	5						1	52				1		
Poplar Springs		T. A. Kelley	Jas. A. Logan	Hanover	62	10				3	1		1	69				1		
Providence		A. G. Rains	W. C. Harris	Traveler's Rest	64						3		4	55						
Refuge		J. H Taylor	T. J. McDonald	Chanahatchie	61	12	2		2	2	2			73				2		
Rockford		G. E. Brewer	T. J Pennington	Rockford	86	8	2			8	2			84	4	50		1	4	
Shiloah		D. S. Martin	O. P. Bently	Crewsville	52	8	4		1	9	3		2	52				4	4	
Santuck		J. M. Johnson	W. J. Johnson	Santuck	51	6			5	1				64				3	1	
Salem		J. D. Hughes	G. E. Litaker	Rockford	62	40	2		4	3	13			95				2	2	
Shady Grove		T. A. Kelley	F. M. Allen	Pentonville	38	1				3				37				2		
Union		Wm. Upshaw	S. F. Thomas	Central Institute	89	2			2	4	3			83	4	58		2		
Union Springs		L. H. Hastie	J. W. Cooper	Marble Valley	77	8	3		1	4	2		1	82					4	
Wayside		L. H. Hastie	M. N. Ward	Syke's Mill	47	16	3		3	9	1		2	56					2	
Total					2017	295	92	4	44	120	54		24	2237	45	375				

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, ALABAMA, 1886.

Churches.	Home Missions.	Church Building (at home)	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Indigent Ministers	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial Education.			Minutes.	Associational Purposes.	Sunday School.		Women's Society.			Bro. J. D. Hughes.		Total.	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, The Poor, etc. and other Ministers	Value of Building and Furniture.	Value of Chapel and Parsonage.
							Colored Students	Howard College.	Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.			Bro. J. M. Russell	School Expenses,	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions next year.							
Alexander City				7 50	1 25			22 50		3 00												
Antioch			3 50	5 90						1 00												
Bethesda	1 95		1 90	1 55				1 50		1 50												
Beulah	4 50		50	1 00						1 00												
Bethlehem										1 50												
County Line	70		20	4 30				1 70		1 25												
Concord	5 00		5 00	5 00				5 00		1 50												
Eclectic	4 00		1 00	2 35				1 00		1 50												
Goodwater	3 00			8 00						2 75												
Good Hope				5 00						1 00												
Hatchet Creek										1 00												
Harmony	3 90		35	25				10		2 00												
Liberty										1 00												
Lebanon				5 00						1 00												
Mt. Olive	50			9 20						2 00												
Mt. Moriah				10 00						1 00												
Mt. Zion				50						1 50												
Mt. Pleasant	2 50		2 50							75												
Macedonia										1 00												
New Hope										1 00												
Olive Branch										1 00												
Poplar Springs	5 35									1 00												
Providence										1 50												
Refuge				3 15						1 00												
Rockford	3 85		10 00	10 00				14 25		2 00												
Shiloah	5 30		60	1 75				2 55		1 25												
Santuck				5 00						1 00												
Salem				5 00				5 00		1 00												
Shady Grove	2 00		1 00	2 00						1 00												
Union	2 10		7 30	4 20				4 55		1 50												
Union Springs				2 25						1 50												
Wayside	2 50		5 00	2 50						1 50												
James Walker				5 00																		
Lebanon Church															10 00							
A. J. Deloach															55							
Collections at Ass'n																						
Total	$47 15	$17 35	$38 85	104 20	$1 25			$60 65		$44 20		$29 55			$10 55		$1 25					